GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:969
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
NETWORK OF ELECTRONIC LIBRARY
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to spread the network of electronic library throughout the country in order to disseminate Indian culture and history to the villages as reported in the news item published in the Rashtriya Sahara dated January 4, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (c): The Department of Culture would give a push to the modernization of central and public libraries in the country in accordance with the objectives of the Tenth Plan. As part of this programme, the major libraries such as National Library, Kolkata and Central Secretariat Library, Delhi have already initiated the work for creating the electronic resource base of the existing holdings. These electronic databases would be made available to the public libraries throughout the country for easy access and dissemination of available resources in the country. The public libraries at the state, district and village levels would be the main beneficiaries as they would then be in a position to access the resources available in the central libraries for the use of general public. The said project of retro-conversion of existing catalogues in the National Library and Central Secretariat Library is anticipated to cost around Rs.10 crores and would be completed during the Ten! th Plan.